

Chesterville Excavation Record

This information was gleaned from the Excavation Day Book which is stored at NASA Langley Research Center. The actual excavation notebook with details of the dig was lost years ago (Frank Farmer, personal communication, July 1995). What I have done here is to compile the entries from Frank Farmer's notes, the photo log, the labelled artifacts, the few existing site plan drawings, and the day book by provenience unit, thus assembling as complete a picture of each unit as possible. The information does not always match up, but it is a handy way of looking at the scattered bits of information.

E.R. 1 - N 280-290 / E 650-660

Opened on 9/20/75

Levels: ER 1 = disturbed topsoil

9/21/75 - Some excavation continued in topsoil layer.

9/25/75: "continued removing 1A south of wall line. Brick frags are heavier there."

(This would be on the edge of the bank.)

9/28/75 - Wall feature noted running SW>NE, w/ subsoil showing on S side. Narrow fill layer next to S side of wall.

10/11/75 - Continued excavation.

11/1/75 - Removed ER 1A in NW corner, inside wall.

11/8/75 - Removed E bulk in ER 1, 1A & 1B.

11/9/75 - Completed removal of ER 1, 1A & 1B in E bulk.

4/3/76 - Removed ER 1, North bulk.

4/18/76 - Excavated ER 1, 1A, & 1B in west bulk. Scrape square down for photos.

5/4/76 - Removed 1A & 1B in west bulk.

5/8/76 - Began a test trench across disturbed wall area.

5/12/76 - Excavated small pits (poss. postholes) in Squares 1 & 2.

5/20/76 - Continued cross trench in 1C. Photo log notes "content of the fill used in wall between stones: 3 types of brick, 2 types of mortar, and several pieces of plaster. Also a large unburned frag of oyster shell."

5/22/76 - Began excavating 1C eastward from the cross trench to east wall of square.

4/9/77 - "complete removal of undist. wall in Sq. 1 (bottom of trench)(1F)"

4/17/77 - Began excavation of ER 1G.

4/23/77 - Continued excavation of 1G.

5/23/77 - Photographs taken of cleared east end of foundation.

9/10/77 - Cleaned up, photographed, and removed the isolated wall section in Sq. 1.

9/18/77 - Completed removal of isolated wall section in Sq. 1.

9/25/77 - "Final" scrapedown of Sq. 1 inside foundation.

Levels: 1) Dark topsoil

2) Mixture of topsoil and brick & mortar rubble

3) Brick & mortar & stones (intact wall).

E.R. 2 - N 290-300 / E 650-660

Opened on 9/20/75

9/21/75 - removed loose topsoil.
 10/4/75 - "Renewed excavation in NE & NW corner of square which (was) believed to be outside wall".
 10/5/75 - Continued excavation.
 10/12/75 - New features noted in 2C (not described, but artifact bags indicate pits in N, S, & SE)
 10/13/75 - Continued excavation.
 10/19/75 - Continued in ER 2C.
 10/25/75 - Continued in ER 2C, then began removal of ER 2 and 2A in E bulk.
 10/26/75 - Continued removing ER 2A & 2C in E bulk.
 11/1/75 - Continued removing ER 2C in E bulk.
 11/2/75 - Continued removal of disturbed area in ER 2C (E bulk).
 11/8/75 - Continued excavation of pit in ER 2C (SE corner)
 11/9/75 - continued excavating in 2C pit area.
 11/15/75 - Continued in ER 2C pits.
 11/17/75 - Chimney base first recognized.
 11/22/75 - Remove North bulk in ER 2, 2A, & 2C.
 11/29/75 - Continued removal of N bulk in ER 2, 2A, 2C.
 4/3/76 - Removed ER 2, south bulk.
 4/10/76 - Removed more of north bulk.
 4/19/76 - Scrape square down for photos.
 4/20/76 - Took west bulk down to subsoil. East-to-west lines showing up as in squares to the east. (Plow scars?). Depth approx. 8-10", shallower than other squares. Did not find definite second layer.
 5/12/76 - Excavated small pits (Poss. postholes) in Squares 1 & 2.
 5/27/76 - Continued excavation in 2C. Began excavation of 2D, a circular feature isolated by sterile soil. ER 2F, a rectangular feature north of 2D, has been excavated. ER 2G, a pit measuring about 1' across in the SW corner of the square, has been excavated as well.
 5/30/76 - Continued excavation of 2D. Photos show a bucketlike pit with brick and mortar in the upper levels, over loose stones; soil is a dark sandy loam.
 7/25/76 - Continued excavating pit in SE corner ER 2. (Is this "2C-SE pit"? Or is it one of the undescribed pits, and is it on any drawings?)
 10/3/76 - Continued to clear disturbed wall section in SE corner where it joins ER 9.
 10/9/76 - Excavated hearth area inside chimney arms.
 10/11/76 - Continued excavation of hearth area (see ER# 2C3).
 10/23/76 - Continued excavation of hearth area. Excavated postmold near fireplace (ER 2J)
 10/31/76 - Continued around hearth and in 2J.
 11/6/76 - Continued in SE corner of foundation.
 11/20/76 - Continued in SE corner and around chimney.
 5/23/77 - Photographs taken of cleared east end of foundation.

Levels: ER 2 = disturbed topsoil

2A =

2B = "sandy layer noted under 2A" on 10/4/75

2C =

2D= circular pit or posthole c. 20" diameter, roughly NE of 2G

2E=

2F= rectangular feature north of 2D

2G= roughly circular pit or posthole approx. 12" diameter in SW corner of square

2J= postmold near fireplace.

E.R. 3 - N 290-300 / E 620-630

Opened on 9/27/75 in order to find N and NW parts of foundation.

Found signs of a wall in SE portion on 9/27/75.

10/2/75: Square divided into 2 sections: 3A & 3B (the dividing line is not specified)

10/4/75 - Continued excavation of 3A & B; all area outside wall should be completed today.

10/5/75 - Continued excavation. Cross trenches dug over wall area. (no explanation why)

10/11/75 - Continued excavation. Excavation terminated.

11/17/75 - ER 3C has been removed.

E.R. 4 - N 280-290 / E 610-620

Opened on 9/27/75 in order to find N and NW portions of foundation.

9/28/75 - Found NW corner of foundation. Drawings and photos. Large stones and mortar removed from 4A.

10/5/75 - Continued excavation.

E.R. 5 - N 300-310 / E 640-650

Opened on 10/4/75 in search of NE corner of foundation.

10/5/75 - Continued excavation.

10/11/75 - Continued excavation.

10/12/75 - "New feature(s) discovered in 5A" (but not described)

10/13/75 - Continued excavation.

11/1/75 - Excavated recent posthole in 5A (possibly from chainlink fence that used to cross site).

11/17/75 - Note: Pit in NW corner is from a recent fence post.

4/16/76 - Began excavating east bulk of ER 5, 5A, & 5B.

4/17/76 - Began excavating south bulk of ER 5, 5A, & 5B. Began excavating 5C.

4/18/76 - Continued 5C to subsoil.

6/12/76 - Continued excavating 5D, began 5E. (Pits in subsoil?)

6/20/76 - Continued excavating 5E.

6/23/76 - Continued excavating 5E.

7/18/76 - Continued excavating 5E.

7/25/76 - Continued excavating 5E.

5/23/77 - Photographs taken of cleared east end of foundation.

E.R. 6 - N 290-300 / E 630-640

Opened on 10/12/75 to reveal balance of N wall.

10/13/75 - Continued excavation.

10/25/75 - removed ER 6 and 6A in N bulk.

11/1/75 - Removed ER 6A inside wall area.

5/3/76 - Removed turf from east bulk.

5/4/76 - Excavated east bulk in 6A & 6B.

5/26/76 - Began cross trench in 6AA.

10/8/77 - Began cleanup to remove erosion rubble & reveal undisturbed soil,etc.

10/10/77 - Completed cleanup in cross trench. Removed ER 6A, south bulk.
 10/16/77 - Began removal of ER 6, west bulk.
 10/24/77 - Finished removing north half of west bulk.
 Excavated ER 6A' in NE corner of square (NE of brick row, NW of foundation).
 10/30/77 - Excavated in ER 6B, in NE corner of square.
 11/20/77 - Continued excavation in ER 6B.
 11/25/77 - Continued in 6B.
 11/27/77 - Continue in 6B.
 12/3/77 - Continued in 6B. Began to excavate west side of square, hoping to uncover other brick wall.
 1/1/78 - Unexcavated portion of 6B (just NW of foundation) will be called 6B'.
 1/2/78 - Continued excavation in 6B'.
 1/7/78 - Continued removal of 6B'.
 1/8/78 - Continued excavation of 6B', 6B, and 6C.
 4/1/78 - Continued excavation in 6B". Began in ER 6AAA.
 4/9/78 - Continued in 6AAA.
 4/23/78 - Completed 6AAA. Returned to 6B", finished it. Began 6BB.
 5/14/78 - Continued in 6AAA.
 9/24/78 - Excavated west bulk (south half) to same level as rest of square. Continued in 6AAA.
 9/30/78 - Excavated in 6A, inside north wall of foundation.
 10/8/78 - Completed 6AAA. Continued 6A in south part of square. Continued 6BB west of brick row.
 10/14/78 - Continued in 6A south of foundation wall.
 10/21/78 - Continued 6BB west of brick row. Completed 6A inside foundation. Began 6BBB.
 10/28/78 - Continued in 6BB.
 11/12/78 - Continued in 6BB & 6BBB. ER 6BBB is dense brick rubble & mortared stone.
 11/25/78 - Continued in 6BB & 6BBB.
 12/3/78 - Continued 6BBB. Began 6A'.
 12/10/78 - Continued in 6BBB and 6A'.
 12/17/78 - Continued in 6BBB. Completed 6A'.
 11/4/79 - Some excavation in 6BB & 6BBB.
 11/10/79 - Continued excavation in 6BB & 6BBB.
 11/18/79 - Removed some of the rock layer. (6C)
 11/24/79 - Continued removal of ER 6CC, the stone layer.
 12/1/79 - Finished 6CC, began excavation of 6D.
 12/8/79 - Continued in 6D. South wall has partially collapsed.
 4/5/80 - Completed 6E. Began 6EE, 6G, & 6H.
 4/13/80 - Continued section on NW corner. Excavated SW corner.
 5/9/80 - Excavated ER 6F', 6G, & 6H on west side of test trench
 5/25/80 - Excavated 6J (very pink sand and brick layer) on west side of trench. Excavated mound of silt (6K?) and found a post hole underneath.
 Excavated 6F on east side of test trench.
 5/31/80 - Took pictures of post hole, completed excavation of post mold. (Is it 6L, 6M, or 6N?)
 6/7/80 - Completed excavation of post hole.
 6/22/80 - Finished mortar layer (6F?), took 4 color & 3 B/W pictures. Removed charcoal layer (6G).

7/6/80 - Began removal of 6H on N side of test trench.
 7/12/80 - Continued excavation of 6H.
 8/9/80 - Continued removal of 6HH to reveal 6J.
 8/18/80 - Continued removing 6HH.
 8/22/80 - Finished excavating 6H. Worked on 6I & 6J.
 9/14/80 - Excavated 6J.
 11/2/80 - Removed sandy layer 6J & dark brown layer, sand and mortar layer to subsoil.
 Dark brown layer was designated 6J'.
 11/9/80 - Draw and photo-document wall (east wall of ER 6).
 11/16/80 - Excavated top of wall and section down to F layer. Placed all artifacts into one bag.
 Several bones found just above the F layer.
 11/23/80 - Uncovered what appears to be a complete skeleton of perhaps a pet. The bones were
 completely mixed in layer 6F & uncovering intact was not feasible.
 12/8/80 - Worked on level 6HH next to wall. Found gun barrel(?) - brass spigot.
 2/15/80 - Excavated 6K near wall.
 4/26/81 - Cleaned up bottom of excavation. Excavated west part of bottom step. Removed those
 bricks not in place in west wall of basement entrance.
 5/3/81 - Swept up dig and took photographs. Did some excavating on east wall of basement
 entrance to finish ER 6. The dig is ready to be filled.

Levels: 6A -

6A' -

6AA -

6AAA -

6B -

6B' -

6BB -

6BBB -

6C -

6CC -

6D -

6E -

6EE -

6F - Reddish brown loam with v. high mortar frag & brick bats

6F' - almost 100% mortar

6FF -

6G - grey to black, high in charcoal and burnt mortar

6H - Reddish brown sandy loam w/ some oyster shell and brick frag, heavy concentration
 of small mortar & brick frags

6HH - light brown sandy loam w/ few inclusions

6I - med brown sandy loam w/ few inclusions.

6J - (6H') - Lt brown/tan very sandy wash layer

6K - (6H'') - Med. brown / yellow tinge w/ very few inclusions.

6L - posthole

6M - posthole

6N - posthole

E.R. 7 - N 300-305 / E 630-640

Opened on 11/1/75 : SOUTH HALF ONLY

11/2/75 - Continued removal of ER 7A

11/8/75 - Took ER 7A down to next layer.

E.R. 8 - N 300-310 / E 650-660

Oening date not recorded

11/2/75 - Continued removal of ER 8A.

11/8/75 - Continued work in ER 8A (N & S halves).

11/15/75 - Removed overburden on wall (8B)

11/17/75 - Pit in NW corner is from a recent fence post.

11/22/75 - Removed overburden (8B) on east wall.

4/8/76 - Began removing south bulk. Began removing west bulk in ER 8 & 8A.

4/13/76 - Finished removing west bulk in 8A & 8B.

5/8/76 - Began test trench across disturbed wall area.

5/9/76 - Continue test trench across 8D

5/13/76 - Completed cross trench of 8D.

5/31/76 - Began excavating in 8D, SE and NW of cross trench.

6/12/76 - Continue excavation of 8D NW of trench.

6/19/76 - Continue excavation of 8D NW of cross trench.

11/6/76 - A builders trench is visible on north side of chimney base, south of the cross trench.

12/5/76 - Continued in 8F (NE of chimney base? posthole? builders trench?)

12/11/76 - "Continued in post hole" (this may be 8F?)

5/7/77 - Scrape down NW corner to check for any missed features.

5/23/77 - Photographs taken of cleared east end of foundation.

9/25/77 - Initiated removal of undisturbed wall section (north wall).

10/8/77 - Continued removal of unmortared wall; no indication of disturbance or any artifacts.

12/17/77 - Continued removal of ER 8K.

12/24/77 - Completed excavation of ER 8K. Excavated small pit in soil under the wall (8L).

E.R. 9 - N 290-300 / E 660-665

Opened 11/8/75.

11/9/75 - Remove ER 9A (W half).

11/15/75 - Continued in 9B.

11/17/75 - Photo shows 9C (sandy layer w/ stones in it, running E/W)

4/3/76 - Began to remove square 9 west bulk. (9A & B)

4/6/76 - Started and completed south bulk of square 9.

5/30/76 - Scrape down ER 9B, 9C, & 9D.

10/3/76 - Continued to clear disturbed wall section where it meets ER 2.

11/6/76 - Continued around SE corner of foundation.

5/23/77 - Photographs taken of cleared east end of foundation.

E.R. 10 - N 290-300 / E 670-680

Opened on 11/22/75.

11/29/75 - Continued removal of 10A. Photo log notes a sandy layer in middle of square: does it correspond to 9C? (see above.)
12/6/75 - Continued removal of 10A.
12/13/75 - Continued removal of ER 10A & 10B.
12/14/75 - Continued removal of 10B, south track.
12/20/75 - Continued removal of 10B, north and middle tracks.
12/21/75 - Continued removal of ER 10B, center track.
3/1/76 - According to a photo log entry, ER 10C is a trash pit. A mortar foundation was noted beneath ER 10B.

E.R. 11 - N280-290 / E 640-650

4/22/76 - Surface elevations taken.
4/23/76 - Remove turf.
4/24/76 - Finish removing turf. Began excavating 11A.
4/26/76 - Continue excavating 11A.
5/10/76 - Began a test trench across rubble layer (ER 11AA) over inside wall.
5/11/76 - Excavated 11C.
5/13/76 - Continued cross trench of 11AA.
5/19/76 - Continue cross trench of 11AA, removing rubble to expose mortared wall.
5/20/76 - Continue excavating cross trench in 11AA. Photo log notes that the wall includes "sockets in mortar for two large stones".
5/22/76 - Extended cross trench in 11AA back to west wall of square.
5/25/76 - Completed cross trench in 11AA.
4/23/77 - Scrape down inside wall.
5/23/77 - Photographs taken of cleared east end of foundation.
6/5/77 - Complete removal of ER 11F.
10/8/77 - Began cleaning out erosion rubble in cross trench, in prep for further work there.

E.R. 12 - N 280-290 / E 660-670

4/12/76 - Excavated 3' x 3' in NW corner to reveal SE corner of foundation; ER 12, 12A, & 12B.
5/17/76 - Excavated NW corner (5' x 3') down to sterile soil, exposing a badly disturbed SE corner of the structure.
6/19/76 - Began excavation of 12C. It appears to be a dark irregular feature isolated by subsoil.
6/20/76 - Continued excavation of 12C.
6/23/76 - Continued excavation of 12C.
7/18/76 - Continued removing 12C.
11/6/76 - Cleanup in SE corner of foundation.
11/20/76 - Continued in SE corner.
12/5/76 - Continued in disturbed wall area in SE corner (12E).
4/17/77 - Excavated postmold in N.E. corner (sic) of foundation trench (ER 12K)
4/31/77 - Finished scrape down in SE corner, incl. 2 post holes.
5/23/77 - Photographs taken of cleared east end of foundation.

E.R. 13 - N 290-300 / E 640-650

4/22/76 - Surface elevations taken.
4/24/76 - Remove turf.

4/27/76 - Began excavation of 13A.
4/28/76 - Continue excavation of 13A.
4/29/76 - Continue excavation of 13A.
4/30/76 - Continue excavation of 13A.
5/2/76 - Complete excavating 13A. Begin 13B. Complete 13B.
5/3/76 - Take out west bulk ER 13, 13A, & 13B.
5/19/76 - Scrape down 13B to reveal pits, etc.
5/21/76 - Continued scrapedown. Pits will receive separate ER #'s.
5/24/76 - Continued work in square 13.
5/25/76 - Continued excavation in Sq. 13
5/26/76 - Continued excavation of Square 13 ER#'s.
5/7/77 - Scrape down to check for any missed features.
5/23/77 - Photographs taken of cleared east end of foundation.

E.R. 101 - N 190-200 / E 570-580

Opened on 12/6/75; turf removed.

1/24/76 - Began to remove 101A.
2/14/76 - Continued 101A.
2/16/75 - Continued 101A in SW corner.
2/17/76 - 101A and south trench (101B?)
2/18/76 - 101A and south trench (101B?)
2/19/76 - 101A and south trench (101B?)
2/21/76 - 101A and 101AA (north trench) & 101C (south trench)
2/28/76 - 101B north trench and 101D.
2/29/76 - ER 101-south half photographed after excavation complete.
3/7/76 - Started ER 101 North half.
3/14/76 - Began excavation of ER 101A - north half.
3/21/76 - Continued 101A
3/22/76 - Completed 101A & 101AA, began 101B and 101BB.
3/26/76 - Completed 101BB (oyster shell layer), north half, first trench.
3/27/76 - Continued excavating 101B, north half, first trench.
3/28/76 - Completed 101B in north half, first trench. Started 101A, north half, second trench.
4/3/76 - Completed 101A, north half, second trench. Began 101AA (brick layer).
4/4/76 - Completed removing 101AA and a small transition band. Began 101BB in north half, second trench.
4/5/76 - Cont. 101BB and 101BBB; started 101B. (Some explanation of levels would help.)
4/6/76 - Finished 101BB, cont. on 101BBB. (A note in photolog states that 101BB is above 101BBB, which is above 101B. This does not make sense.)
4/7/76 - Completed removing 101BBB.
4/8/76 - Cont. 101B, east of brick & mortar formation.
4/10/76 - Cont. 101B.
4/11/76 - Cont. 101B. Documented & removed brick & mortar foundation in NW corner.
4/14/76 - Completed ER 101B.